New Program Proposal
Associate Degree in Public Service
Major in Criminal Justice Technology
York Technical College

Summary

York Technical College requests approval to offer a program leading to the Associate Degree in Public Service with a major in Criminal Justice Technology, to be implemented in Spring 2007.

The program was approved by the South Carolina Technical College System Board at its meeting on July 25, 2006. It was submitted for Commission review on August 14, 2006, and reviewed and voted upon favorably by the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs (ACAP) at its meeting on October 11, 2006. USC-Lancaster, the only other institutional campus in the region offering an associate degree in Criminal Justice, previously has given full support to the program. There were no substantive comments or questions about the program at the meeting.

The purpose of the program is to prepare students with necessary skills and knowledge to serve in positions in the field of criminal justice in the York service area. According to the proposal, students in the program will include individuals seeking to enter the criminal justice field and those already in the field who desire to increase their qualifications for advancement. The proposal further states that the program will prepare graduates for employment in courts, law-enforcement agencies, detention centers, corporate security, and private agencies. An employment needs survey conducted in the York service area in March, 2006, indicates that over the next three years there will be approximately 183 full-time positions and 24 part-time positions available in the next three years. This level of demand is far more than the program can supply.

According to the proposal, the institution's current catalog of courses will require the addition of seven new courses in criminal justice at the institution to support the program. No new courses are needed to be added to the Technical System's catalogue of approved courses. The curriculum will consist of 19 courses for a total of 65 credit hours. Eight courses (23 credit hours) are core courses for the Associate's degree and 14 courses (42 credit hours) support the major. All 14 of the major courses are in criminal justice.

Twelve technical colleges in the state currently offer associate-level programs in Criminal Justice Technology. In 2004, according to the proposal, placement rates for graduates of these programs ranged from 100% at Aiken and Central Carolina, to 58% at Midlands. Eight of the twelve had placement rates over 80%. Within York Tech's service area, USC-Lancaster offers the Associate of Science degree in Criminal Justice. This degree is intended as an academic degree, requires only 15 hours of Criminal Justice courses, and is designed for transfer to the USC-Columbia bachelor's program in Criminal Justice.

The existing certificate program has several adjunct faculty members, including the County Solicitor, providing instruction. The proposed program will require one new full-time faculty member (1 FTE) to teach and to serve as program manager.

Enrollment in the proposed program is estimated to begin at 24 headcount (25.6 FTE) in Spring 2007 and increase to 45 headcount (41.3 FTE) in Fall 2007. This estimate is based on projecting 22 new students (24 total) in the first year and allowing for attrition and projected new enrollment each semester.

There is no accrediting body for Criminal Justice Technology programs. Graduates entering law enforcement will have to attend the SC Criminal Justice Academy for certification, and licensure or certification is not required for employment.

The institution has sufficient classroom space to support the program. Local law enforcement agencies have offered use of training facilities to support the program.

The York Technical College Library currently contains 38 titles related to the Criminal Justice major and 375 law titles. According to the proposal, the library's physical holdings do not meet Association for College and Research Libraries standards for community, junior, and technical colleges. Students using the library, however, have access to extensive electronic collections through PASCAL as well as reciprocal borrowing privileges at other colleges in the system. The proposal states that the institution intends to spend $8000 the first three years of the program to increase holdings in the area.

New costs for the program are projected to be $80,460 in the first year and include Faculty Salaries ($57,000), Supplies and Materials ($500), Equipment ($2,500), Library Resources ($4,500) and Fringe Benefits ($15,960). In the second year, new costs drop to $76,960 and include Faculty Salaries ($57,000), Supplies and Materials ($500), Equipment ($1,500), Library Resources ($2,000) and Fringe Benefits ($15,960). By the third year, the new costs for the program are estimated at $77,740. Total new costs for the first three years of the program are estimated at $235,160. According to the proposal, funding for the program will come from tuition. No unique or special funds are requested.

Shown here are the estimated Mission Resource Requirement (MRR) costs to the state. Also shown are the estimated revenues projected under the MRR and the Resource Allocation Plan as well as student tuition.

Year	Estimated MRR Cost for Proposed Program	Extraordinary (Non-MRR) Costs for Proposed Program	Total Costs	State Appropriation	Tuition	Total Revenue
Year 1	$187,087	$0	**$187,087**	N/A	$88,947	**$88,947**
Year 2	$302,353	$0	**$302,353**	$72,217	$144,080	**$216,297**
Year 3	$302,353	$0	**$302,353**	$116,914	$144,080	**$260,994**

These data demonstrate that if York Technical College can meet the projected student enrollments and contain costs as they are shown in the proposal, the program will not be able to cover costs with revenues it generates by the third year of its implementation.

In summary, York Technical College is proposing a program leading to the Associate Degree in Public Service with a major in Criminal Justice Technology. The program will provide graduates prepared to enter occupations in the criminal justice field or to complete required training for entry into law enforcement.

Recommendation

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommend that the Commission approve the proposed program at York Technical College leading to the Associate Degree in Public Service with a major in Criminal Justice Technology, to be implemented in Spring 2007 provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding is required or requested.